

November 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we quickly approach this season of thanksgiving, I want to take time to thank each of you for your support of RHS, its teachers, and the counselors. We appreciate all that you do for us and your efforts to help your sophomore through high school. I want to thank you for focusing on communication with me this year as we build positive relationships with your teenager and our staff. Please know I am grateful for your efforts and hope you have a happy Thanksgiving.

We are currently in the second half of the fall semester. This is crunch time because there are two holidays in November and before you know it, the semester will end. It is often said that if your student is passing classes by Thanksgiving break, then they will pass their classes. I'm not sure if this is true but it's reasonable to think students won't have much time after the Thanksgiving break to catch up in classes at the end of the semester. The fall semester ends December 22nd. Check Schoology with your sophomore and email teachers directly if you have a question regarding a specific assignment or grade.

Here are some resources for you and your student if he/she is struggling:

- Teachers are available before and after school – unless they have a meeting so check with your teacher if you need help and be sure to show up.
- Free tutoring after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in room H4 until 3:30p.m (it's also a great place to get homework done).
- Peer Counselors are available to assist with organization. They are familiar with the interactive notebooks for World History and can help with it. They can make a list of missing assignments from Schoology and they can go with you to speak with a teacher if you need someone to support you through the process to self advocate.
- Set up a study group or a study buddy to meet regularly in the College and Career Center or library- especially prior to any tests!
- Khan Academy is a great math resource and it's free
- If you are struggling in a class (for example a math class) and you would like to go with your friend to their math teacher or the teacher you had last year, the teachers can help you.
- Last but not least, we do have names of outside tutors if you are willing to pay for the extra help (but try our free ones first).

We have just finished a very successful Breaking Down the Walls program! If your student participated in the workshops, find out at least one good thing they garnered from it. I have heard great things from the students who chose to participate in the activities. I feel like it is a great program and students benefit from the activities- therefore RHS and the community benefit from it. Perhaps you will see a change in your student's attitude at home as well.

If you are a planner and want to mark your calendars early, I have two events coming up spring semester. First, is the Parent Information Night scheduled for Thursday, January 19th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The location is yet to be determined. The second is a workshop for your sophomore on Monday, February 13th at 1:30- 2:30 p.m. in the library. The focus of the works shop is college preparation, GPAs and courses selection. I will be working with Mrs. Tillery to present

to students this workshop and it will be a great introduction to the resources we have on campus for students heading off to a two or four year college.

Also, spring semester we will start our course selection process for junior year. The counselors will be going out to speak with students in their social studies classes and then later meet individually with them to review their course selections from their LA classes. For sophomores this process will begin in February after the Parent Information Night.

Preparations are underway for our annual Thunder Galleria student event held Monday, December 12th. This is an evening event and all students are welcome to get involved either through a club, or individually. Clubs host booths for the evening and individuals help with set up, clean up or as “elves”. Check out the College and Career Center for more information! It’s a rewarding way for students to have a great time, help our community and earn some community service hours.

There are many other community service opportunities available for students to earn their 25 hours needed for graduation. You can stop by the College and Career Center or check online for more information.

Sophomore year is a perfect time to explore the Naviance program especially before any family gatherings when someone may ask “what do you want to be when you grow up?” Students are often asked this question and some are able to answer it easily. Others are not so sure. They may know what they like to study in school or have a general idea of their likes/dislikes – this is an important step in finding a career. The Naviance Program is a great career exploration resource as well as college information site. I especially like the “Super Match” program for college research. Explore the website over the Thanksgiving break and then spend time with your sophomore reviewing what you learn from Naviance. Let me know what you think of your results and of the Naviance program. We will be using Naviance in LA 2 this spring and we will be hosting some workshops in the future to help students with the college search process. If you use Naviance over the Thanksgiving break, it will give you a head start on the process.

Check the RHS website for upcoming events and important information!

As the holiday season quickly approaches, take time together as a family. These sophomores are growing up quickly and in a blink of your eye we will be attending graduation – enjoy your sophomore now. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break with your sophomore and stay in touch. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sunday, November 6 – End of Daylight Savings- remember to change your clocks.

Friday, November 11 – Veteran’s Day – No school

Monday November 22-Friday, November 25 – Thanksgiving break – No school

Sincerely,

Ms. Helene Carr
Counselor for the Class of 2019